Vacancy of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court

1064. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of posts of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court are lying vacant for long; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) As on 1st March, 2001 the vacancy position in respect of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and in the High Courts was as follow:

Supreme Court of India	:	2
High Courts	:	183

Photo-Identity Cards for Ensuing Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu

1065. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 63 percent of voters in Tamil Nadu have been provided with photo-identity cards for the ensuing Assembly Elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the DMK party had brought certain flaws to the notice of the Election Commission on the issue of cards; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) A total of 65.25% of the electors have been issued photo-identity cards up to 28.2.2001.

(b) A copy of the statement showing detailed district-wise break-up regarding issue of photo-identity cards to electors in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.12.2000 is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir. The DMK party had brought to the notice of the Election Commission of India a procedural flaw relating to issue of photo-identity cards in 8-Anna Nagar Assembly Constituency in Tamil Nadu.

(d) The Election Commission has issued directives to the Chief Electoral Officer to implement the programme as per guidelines laid down in this regard by the Commission.